

## Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1        1. A method comprising:
  - 2                associating a command with an event at a first device;
  - 3                communicating the command to a second device when the event occurs;
  - 4                causing an action at the second device depending on the command, the
  - 5                action comprising at least one of:
    - 6                        disabling an alert mechanism of the second device;
    - 7                        enabling the alert mechanism of the second device; and
    - 8                        modifying a setting of the alert mechanism of the second device;
  - 9                and
  - 10                if the alert mechanism of the second device is enabled, activating the alert
  - 11                mechanism of the second device in response to an alert being required.
- 1        2. The method of claim 1 wherein activating the alert mechanism of the second
  - 2                device in response to the alert being required further comprises activating the alert
  - 3                mechanism in response to:
    - 4                        a specific internal event, detected by the second device;
    - 5                        a signal requesting the alert, sent from a third device to the second device;
    - 6                        and
    - 7                        the signal requesting the alert, sent from the first device to the second
    - 8                        device.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein:

2 the event is a scheduled event on a stored schedule that is accessible by  
3 the first device; and

4 associating the command with the event further comprises associating the  
5 command with the scheduled event.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein determining when the event has occurred further  
2 comprises:

3 determining a clock time from a clock;

4 accessing the stored schedule; and

5 determining from the stored schedule whether the scheduled event is  
6 associated with the clock time.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein associating the command with the event further  
2 comprises constructing the command depending on one or more of the clock time  
3 and the scheduled event.

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein causing the action at the second device further  
2 comprises sending a signal requesting the alert to the second device.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein:

2 the first device is a personal digital assistant;

3 the second device is a cellular telephone;

4 the alert mechanism of the second device comprises a ringer of the cellular  
5 telephone;

6 disabling the alert mechanism of the second device comprises muting the  
7 ringer of the cellular telephone; and

8 communicating the command comprises transmitting the command from  
9 the personal digital assistant to the cellular telephone, over a wireless network.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating with the second device further  
2 comprises broadcasting a message comprising the command by the first device.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating with the second device further  
2 comprises:

3 sending a polling message from the second device to the first device;  
4 receiving the polling message at the first device; and  
5 in response to the polling message, receiving a message comprising the  
6 command from the first device.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating with the second device further  
2 comprises:

3 Sending a request message from the second device to the first device in  
4 response to an alert being required; and  
5 Receiving a message comprising the command from the first device at the  
6 second device in response to the request message.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the setting of the alert mechanism  
2 comprises setting the intensity of the alert mechanism of the second device to a  
3 specific intensity level including a level corresponding to an imperceptible  
4 intensity.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the alert mechanism includes an audible alert,  
2 the intensity level of the audible alert is the volume of the audible alert, and the  
3 level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity level is a mute level.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the alert mechanism includes an illuminating  
2 alert, the intensity level of the illuminating alert is the brightness of the  
3 illuminating alert, and the level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity level  
4 is darkness.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the setting of the alert mechanism  
2 comprises selecting one or more of a plurality of alternative modes of the alert  
3 mechanism of the second device.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein selecting one or more of the plurality of  
2 alternative modes further comprises selecting one or more of:  
3 an audible alert mode;  
4 a tactile vibration alert mode; and  
5 an illuminating alert mode.

1 16. An apparatus comprising:  
2 a first device to associate a command with an event and to transmit a  
3 message comprising the command;  
4 a second device to receive the message and to perform an action  
5 depending on the command; and  
6 an alert mechanism of the second device with one or more of  
7 a capability to be enabled in response to the command;  
8 a capability to be disabled in response to the command; and  
9 a setting, modifiable in response to the command,  
10 wherein the alert mechanism, if the alert mechanism is enabled, is capable of  
11 being activated in response to an alert being required.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the alert mechanism of the second device may  
2 be activated, if the alert mechanism is enabled, in response to one or more of:  
3 a specific event detected by the second device;  
4 a signal requesting activation of the alert mechanism, sent from a third  
5 device; and  
6 the signal requesting activation of the alert mechanism, sent from the first  
7 device.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:  
2 a storage component accessible by the first device, to store a schedule,  
3 wherein the event further comprises a scheduled event stored in the schedule; and

4 a clock to provide a clock time to one or more of the first device and the  
5 second device.

1 19. The alert mechanism of claim 16 wherein the setting comprises an adjustable  
2 intensity level that may be set to one of many specific levels including an  
3 imperceptible level;

1 20. The alert mechanism of claim 19 wherein the alert mechanism comprises an  
2 audible alert, the intensity level of the alert mechanism is the volume of the  
3 audible alert, and the level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity level is a  
4 mute level.

1 21. The alert mechanism of claim 19 wherein the alert mechanism comprises an  
2 illuminating alert, the intensity level of the alert mechanism is the brightness of  
3 the illuminating alert, and the level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity  
4 level is darkness.

1 22. The alert mechanism of claim 16 wherein the setting comprises a selection of one  
2 or more of a plurality of alternative modes of the alert mechanism.

1 23. The alert mechanism of claim 22 wherein the selection of one or more of the  
2 plurality of alternative modes further comprises the selection of one or more of:  
3 an audible alert mode;

4 a tactile alert mode; and  
5 an illuminating alert mode.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first device and the second device are  
2 physically integrated into a single unit.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein:  
2 the first device is a personal digital assistant;  
3 the second device is a cellular telephone;  
4 the alert mechanism is a ringer of the cellular telephone.

1 26. A machine accessible medium on which is stored data that when accessed by a  
2 machine causes it to perform the method of claim 1.

1 27. A machine accessible medium on which is stored data that when accessed by a  
2 machine causes it to perform the method of claim 5.

1 28. A machine accessible medium on which is stored data that when accessed by a  
2 machine causes it to perform the method of claim 7.